AUGUST 1993
ISSUE #6

INSIDE IMAGE

IMAGE

WANTED

WANTED

WANTED

WANTED

350-QX

Jim Lee & Jeffery Scott introduce a new breed of heroes—GEN-X!

Jeffery Scott
4-93
Alex Garner

FROM THE CREATOR OF LOBO . . .

KEITH GIFFEN ALAN GRANT

images of SHADOWHAWK™

SHADOW HAWK © & ™ JIM VALENTINO 1993. Coloring by Clydene Nee•In Color.

WHAT *ELSE* DO YOU *NEED* TO KNOW?

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INSIDE AUGUST

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Editor: Tony Lobito
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Production Coordinator: Kelly Van Landingham

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Cover Illustration: Created by Jim Lee; Pencils by Jeffery Scott; Inks by Alex Garner; Colors by Joe Chiodo.

GEN-X: Jeffery Scott

CAN YOU TELL US WHAT GEN-X IS ABOUT?

It's about four misunderstood teenagers who are kind of rebellious. They get involved in a genetic experiment, hence the name Gen-X. The details of it are still being worked out, but the gist of it is that they get superpowers.

SO THEY GET THESE POWERS AND THEN THEY HAVE NO PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER, RIGHT?

Well, basically the government then wants to hunt them down, because they escaped from this laboratory they're in. They're kids on the run, I guess you could say.

WHO CREATED THE SERIES?

The concept and the characters were all created by Jim Lee. I did co-create one of the characters named Freefall. I didn't create the name, but I created the visuals. The writer is Brandon Choi.

It's going to be a four issue mini-series, and I'm just on the edge of starting the first

issue. It'll be interesting to see how that all comes about. Gen-X will be my first full-fledged comic from cover to cover.

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE WITH HOMAGE STUDIOS?

I was chosen through that talent search that Jim had in the back of WildC.A.T.S #2.

DID YOU EVER EXPECT TO HEAR ANYTHING BACK FROM THEM?

No, I had my fingers crossed, but I didn't hold my breath. After I was picked, I found out he was getting about 300 entries a day.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN ART AND DRAWING?

I've had an interest in art as far back as I can remember. I did do some commercial art for about a year and a half, but that wasn't very interesting for me, so I sent out some stuff for about six months, and this opportunity came up. It wasn't that hard for me, really. (Laughs). I think I was in the right place at the right time.

DO YOU HAVE A LOT OF INFLUENCES?

I would say the actual influence that got me into comics was Art Adams, and obviously, another major influence is Jim Lee, and also Michael Golden.

I do have other artists that I just like to look at. I like Sam Kieth and Jae Lee and Todd McFarlane's stuff.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE BEST SO FAR ABOUT NOW BEING A REAL COMIC BOOK PROFESSIONAL?

I pretty much like everything about it. It was really a dream job for me, and I think of myself as being very fortunate to be part of Image versus Marvel or something like that. I really like the atmosphere around here, and I like interacting with the other professionals at the studio. I can't really think of a negative side about it.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE IMAGE CHARACTERS?

Well, I certainly like the characters here at Homage. Pretty much all of 'em I find interesting. I tend to lean towards the team characters, just because I like drawing lots of different characters.

HAVE YOU GONE TO CONVENTIONS?

I haven't had anything to promote! (Laughs.) I think my first ones will be the big summer ones. I've never experienced a major con as a fan, let alone as an artist.

SO IT'S GOING TO BE RIGHT IN THERE WITH BOTH FEET, HUH?

Oh yeah, it's going to be pretty overwhelming.

GEN-X #1

GEN-X™

$2.50
Color.
Lee/Choi/Scott/
Garner/Chiodo/
Heisler

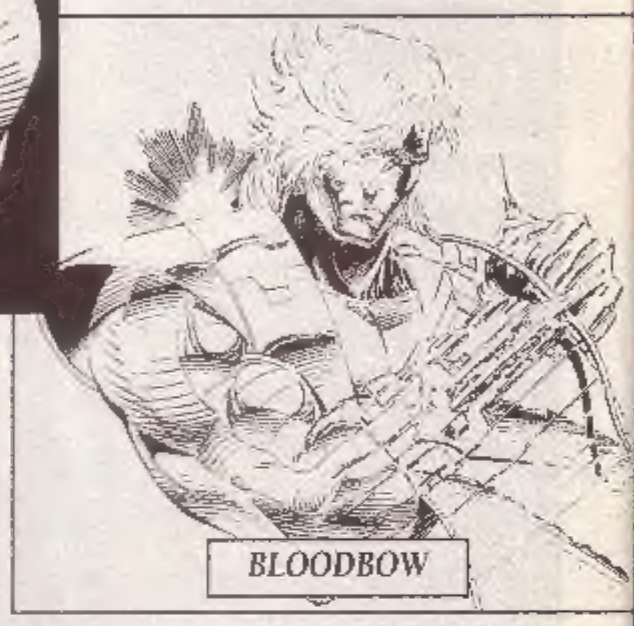
Burn-Out™, Fairchild™, Freefall™ and Grunge™! They're Image Comics' newest heroes for the Nineties. They're young, hip and care-free teenagers whose only concern is chasing down the next hot dance-club. All of that quickly changes when a mysterious government agency declares that these four young people pose a deadly threat to the national security of the United States! Now they must fight to try and just stay alive. Their only hope for the future is to find the answers hidden in their secret past!

CODE NAME: STRYKE FORCE #1

$2.50
Color.
Marc Silvestri/Brandon Peterson/Dan Panosian

What does Morgan Stryker, the popular leader of CYBERFORCE, do on his days off? He kicks butt as head of a team of four super-powered, mutant bodyguards, that's what! Stryker's insatiable lust for adventure compels him to seek out and execute dangerous missions, in his own inimitable fashion! As the leader of STRYKE FORCE, his objective is to protect high-profile clients on an international scale...for a price, daring to take on assignments no other super-group would risk their reputations or lives on! This sensational #1 issue is graced with a radical foil embossed cover. Don't miss it! Retailer Incentive: "Gold Books". For every 100 Code Name Stryke Force #1's ordered, receive one gold foil edition!

CODE NAME: STRYKE



Morgan Stryker of Cyberforce gets his own series! Marc Silvestri and Brandon Peterson pair up for Image's newest team book!

BY CYNTHIA SULLIVAN

QUESTIONS ASKED OF MARC SILVESTRI

WHAT IS CODE NAME: STRYKE FORCE ABOUT?

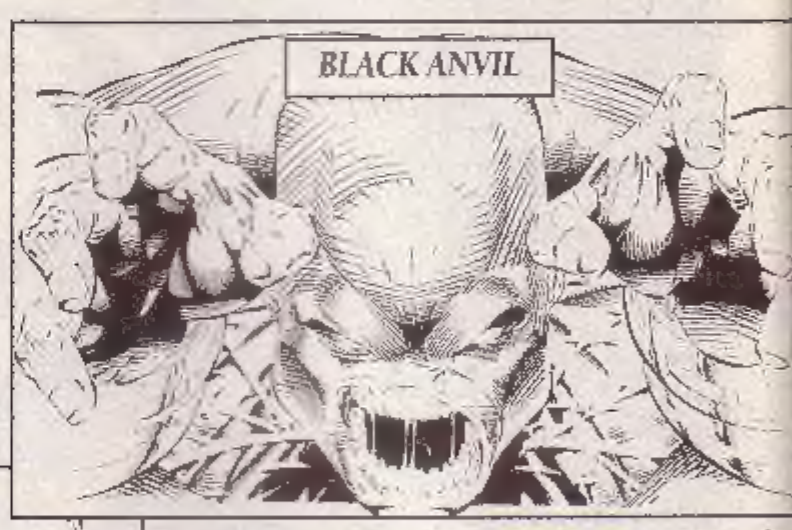
When Morgan Stryker isn't working with CYBERFORCE, he's running a firm that carries out assorted missions for money. Lots of money - $10 Million per job, plus keeping all the leftover spoils - weapons, aircraft, money, etc... For that, he guarantees completion of the job, confidentiality and a low profile.

WHERE DID HE RECRUIT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STRYKE FORCE TEAM? ARE THEY MEMBERS OF CYBERFORCE?

No. They all used to be misguided thugs that Stryker met during his days as a bodyguard. He saw their potential and in order to turn them into "guided thugs", he gave them a choice - join him or consider the alternatives. They joined. The ones who didn't, wished they had!

WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THEIR AGREEMENT?

In return for a million bucks a mission, Stryker demands complete loyalty, in which he owns them. He retains the right to kill them if they refuse any order.



WHO ARE THESE CRAZY PEOPLE?

There are four members in the core group. Tempest, Killrazor, Bloodbow, and Black Anvil. They all possess unique superpowers which aid them in the enforcement of their missions. He also has a few other mutants he retains in case they have a job where they need more muscle.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THEIR SUPER-POWERS?

For example: Killrazor can control his bone structure to create

FORCE

Questions asked of Brandon Peterson

HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH IMAGE?

Actually, Image got involved with me. I'd been working on Uncanny X-Men, and apparently I caught the eye of Marc Silvestri. He called me with an offer to work on a new project he was developing. I thought about it and decided it was the way to go for me. Image is the best game in town!

TELL US ABOUT THE BOOK?

It is a book called CODE NAME: STRYKE FORCE, written and created by Marc Silvestri. It's going to be a team book involving Stryker from CYBER-FORCE and a group of other super-powered adventurers. They're not mercenaries - they won't go out and commit a crime. They clean up messes and handle jobs no one else can do. It should be a lot of fun to work with!

YOU ARE THE "DEADLINE KING"! HOW DO YOU DO IT?

Sometimes it comes, sometimes it goes. But basically, I have no life. I try to keep fairly rigorous with it. My books have always shipped on time, it's something I'm very proud of.

WHAT CAN THE READERS EXPECT TO SEE FROM YOU IN CODE NAME: STRYKE FORCE?

Hold on to your seats! I'm really pumped up about this assignment and when I get very excited about something, it tends to be borderline "lunatical". You'll see lots of energy on the pages, my best effort!

WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH CODE NAME: STRYKE FORCE, AND WHO ELSE IS WORKING WITH YOU?

I created the concept and characters and will be writing the series. Brandon Peterson is pencilling and, of course, Joe Chiodo is coloring. I'm very excited about the work I've seen so far.

TRAVIS CHAREST: WILDC.A.T.S YEARBOOK

BY TOM HARRINGTON

HOW DID YOU COME INTO COMICS?

Well, about a year and a half ago, I was actually selling plumbing supplies, and had no idea that I was going to be doing this. I had done art in junior high drawing Dungeons & Dragons characters for friends, but that was just for fun and I never thought I was good enough to do comic books.

I just figured, "Well, it's the only skill I have," so I took about a year, and just practiced every day. Then I sent some samples in, and two weeks later I got a call from DC, and the rest is history.

SO YOU'RE SELF-TAUGHT?

Well, I have a problem when people say "self taught," because it sounds like they were in a cave, and they just all of a sudden could draw. I think it's more of a combination of practicing and looking at other people, and unless you go to school, the only way you can learn is to look at comic books.

WHAT WERE SOME OF THE ARTISTS AND COMICS YOU LOOKED AT?

The only comics I had were two old John Buscema Conans, so all my old stuff looked kind of like that, but as

WILDC.A.T.S
COVERT-ACTION-TEAMS

I started buying more comics and seeing more artists, my stuff got different.

I guess it's kind of a combination. Jim Lee—he's a big influence. People have told me that my art looks a little like Art Adams. It's really flattering, but I don't know. It's just that I like that style, and it just evolved that way

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED WITH HOMAGE STUDIOS?

Jim just phoned me. Actually, at first it was Rob Liefeld, and I was still under contract, so I couldn't do anything. Then Jim phoned me, and things were wrapping up for me at DC, so he offered me the WildC.A.T.S Annual. I'm just really flattered that they even like my stuff.

WHO WROTE THE ISSUE?

Steve Gerber. His annual story is really different from the mini-series. It's a little darker, more..

MACABRE?

Yeah, exactly. And you see things. Bodies ripped open and that stuff. It's not like a fun action story. It's kind of serious, and there isn't a lot of pallin' around—you know, when they're fighting for their lives and the next minute they're joking. People are dying in it. I think that's the way Gerber writes, and I think it will be a nice kind of slant on the characters, to have them in this kind of story

HOW DID YOU LIKE WORKING WITH THE CHARACTERS?

I don't know how Jim does it, but he just seems to pull these things out of the air and give them a life, and he has a really nice eye for design. It really helps me that the characters are interesting to draw. You don't get sick of it

SO WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE WORLD OF COMICS?

I guess it's probably my friends saying, "Oh, you don't have a real job," and I guess I have to look at it the same way because I like drawing, and I'm getting paid for it, so where's the job?

A JOB IS GETTING PAID FOR SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT TO DO.

Yeah, exactly.

WILDC.A.T.S YEARBOOK #1

$3.50
Color
Charest/Williams/
Gerber/Chioda/Heisler

Void senses the imminent birth of a Gifted One, and that a Daemonite is hunting the newborn - to possess its body as its host. The Daemonite enlists Providence, the mysterious child-seeress, and the darkly-alluring Baroness Destine, a former Coda Assassin, in his search. Can the WildC.A.T.S rescue the infant or will the Daemonite succeed in melding his evil powers with the child's Kherus birthright to become one of the most powerful beings on the face of the earth?

BRIGADE #4

$1.95
Color:
Stephenson/Mychaels/
Rapmund

Following the earth-shattering events of the Blood Brothers cross-over, Kaye leaves for Japan to fulfill a debt of honor with the Yakuza. Meanwhile, a mysterious stranger calling himself Roman arrives on the scene with startling revelations regarding the origin of Seahawk and Coldsnap.

NORM RAPMUND

HOT SHOTS

Birthdate: Feb. 17, 1968

Hobbies: Comic book & toy collecting

Favorite Music: KISS & Neil Diamond

Famous Saying: Huh? No. Nuh uh, where?

Favorite Food: Chinese food & candy

T.V. Show: Home Improvement

BY KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM

WHEN DID YOU FIRST DECIDE YOU WANTED TO WORK IN THE COMICS FIELD, NORM?

Hmmm. Let's see...I guess I've been drawing all my life. I quit drawing for two or three years, though, but eventually I got back into it as a result of seeing Rob's work on New Mutants. Rob's artwork basically inspired me to pick up drawing again.

SO YOU DIDN'T ALWAYS PLAN ON BEING AN INKER?

Not at all. I've always wanted to be a penciller, but the inking thing happened for me, so I'm more than happy with that

HOW DID YOU END UP BREAKING INTO COMICS AND WORKING FOR EXTREME STUDIOS?

Well, just over a year ago, I was showing some of my work to the owner of a comic book store I'd been going to for a while. He happened to know Rob Liefeld and said he'd show him what I'd done. It's been reading a lot of the mutant books around that time and I really liked what Rob was doing and decided I wanted to give that style a try. So, anyway, I held this store owner to his word and kept reminding him to show Rob my stuff. After about two months, I found out that Rob liked my stuff and I was put to the test. The weird thing was, though, I didn't know how to ink...I'd never even picked up a quill and Rob thought I showed promise as an inker. He put me on the Brigade mini-series and started teaching me from there He and Danny Miki pretty much taught me everything I know about inking and so far, it seems to have paid off.

BESIDES ROB, WHO DO YOU COUNT AS AN INFLUENCE ON YOUR WORK?

Like I said before, Rob pretty much inspired me to start drawing seriously, but I'm also a big fan of the stuff John Byrne did on Uncanny X-Men. He drew great faces and his figure work was really strong, too. As far as inking goes, the stuff Scott Williams and Art Thibert have done really stands out for me. Danny's been a pretty major influence on me too!

WHAT'S IT LIKE WORKING WITH ROB & THE GANG AT EXTREME?

Work? Well, I guess I don't really think of it as "work." I love coming in here everyday. We're all just a big happy family! (laughs)

SOUNDS GREAT, BUT WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

I dunno, I don't have to cut my hair.. that's a good thing, right?

IF YOU WEREN'T INKING, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE DOING NOW?

Who knows?!! I'd probably be working towards owning my own comic book store or something!

AND WHAT DO WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD FROM YOU IN THE MONTHS AHEAD?

Well, I just finished up inking the first Youngblood Yearbook back in April and I'm finishing up with Brigade #2 right now. After that I'll be starting on Team Youngblood. For that, I'm going to be inking over Chap Yaep, who I worked with on the Yearbook story and the Youngblood story that appeared in the back of Brigade #4. Basically, I'll be juggling between Brigade and Team Youngblood for the rest of the year.

SHAMAN'S TEARS #4

$1.95
Color:
Grell/Chiodo/Davis/
Gold/Haynie/Snoddy

The Origin story comes to its senses-shattering conclusion as Joshua Brand™ takes on the minions of Bar Sinister™ in a battle that will change superhero comics forevermore. True Believer!

WILD C.A.T.S

TRILOGY

#3

$1.95

Color:
Lee/Wyn/Choi/
Chiodo/Heisler

Coming this August: the explosive conclusion to the WildC.A.T.S Trilogy! Sister Zealot and Sister Artemis fight their ancient duel to the bitter end while Grifter goes on a rampage in his mano a mano battle with Hightower. Meanwhile, the WildC.A.T.S must free themselves from captivity before it's too late to help Zealot or Grifter. As if that weren't enough, the Sisterhood of the Coda has finally tracked down its rogue daughter and prepares to exact its vengeance! A battle royale finale that you won't want to miss!

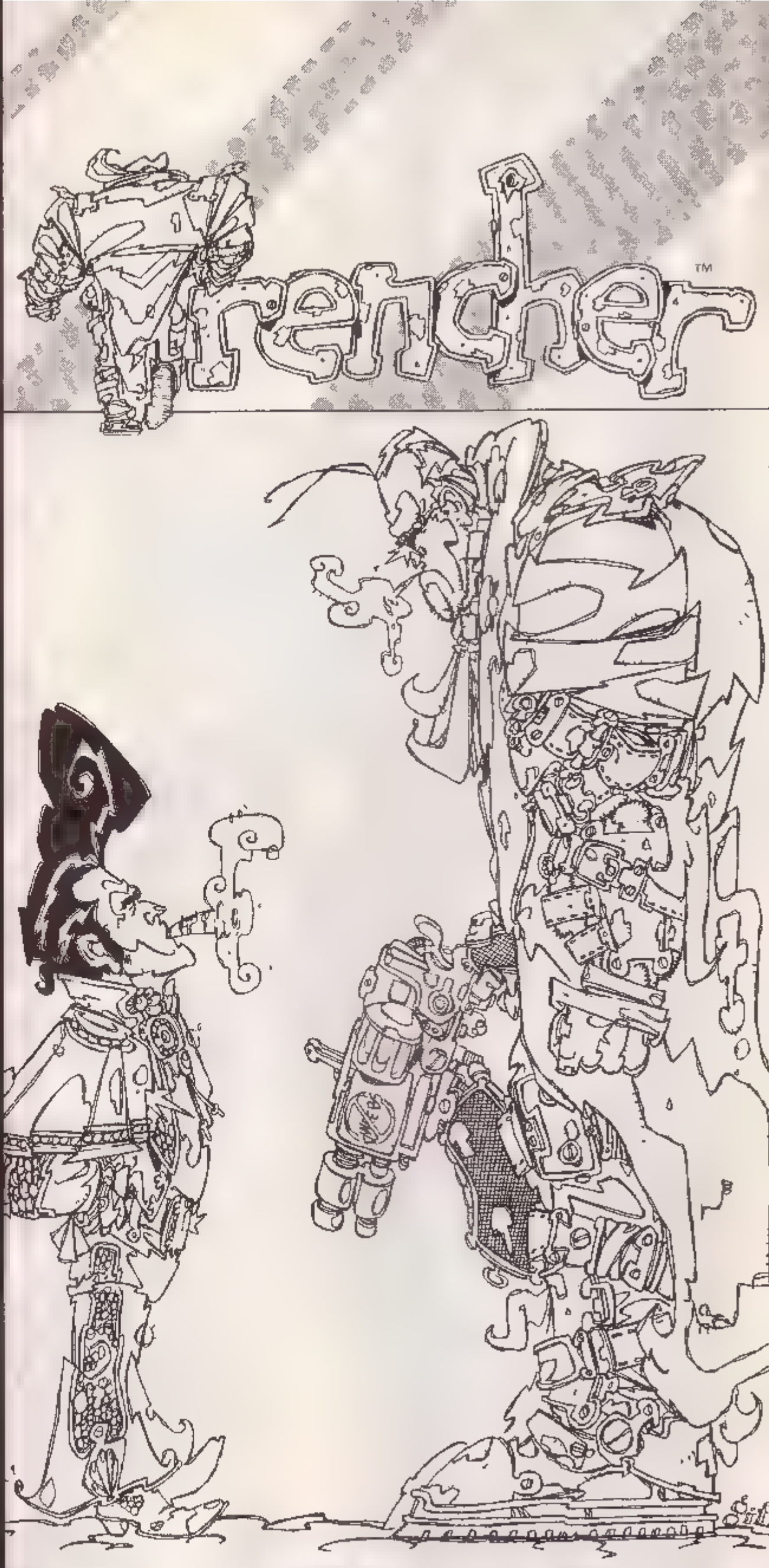
WILDC.A.T.S

COVERT-ACTION-TEAMS

TRENCHER #4

$1.95
Color:
Keith Giffen

Meet Nigel P. Riperton the world's smallest Elvis impersonator and self-proclaimed entrepreneurial "genius" behind the "Don't we just LOVE Elvis to PIECES" traveling revue. So, what has all of this got to do with Trencher? Hey buy the book and find out! What do we look like here, Cliff notes!!?



1963 #5

HORUS, LORD OF LIGHT

$1.95
Color,
Alan Moore/Rick Veitch

[illegible] and mythology [illegible] and this way as Horus, Lord of Light, [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

DARKER IMAGE #4

RE-SOLICITED MATERIAL

$2.50
Color:
Rob Liefeld/Sam Kieth/Jim Lee

DARKER IMAGE comes to a close with this issue as Sam Kieth and William Messner-Loebs bring The Maxx back to the modern world where he finds bodies piling up all over town. All clues point to a mysterious man in a big, baggy trench coat, but it's up to Maxx and Julie to find out for sure. Meanwhile, when Rob Liefeld's cantankerous hero Bloodwulf finds himself captive on the planet of pregnant men it's up to none other than Grandma Bloodwulf to come to his rescue! Finally, the moment of truth is at hand for Jim Lee's Deathblow as he infiltrates Dante Penitentiary in the middle of the Florida Everglades. Getting in is hard enough, but reaching General Manuel Ortega will take a miracle. And half a world away, the Forces of Darkness are awakening after centuries of slumber as the Evil senses the coming of the Miracle Child and prepares to set the wheels of fortune in motion in order to fulfill its destiny of death and destruction. Don't miss the explosive conclusion to the DARKER IMAGE series! Look for a special print cover on the final issue of the Darker Image series.

THE MAXX #6

$1.95
Color:
Sam Kieth

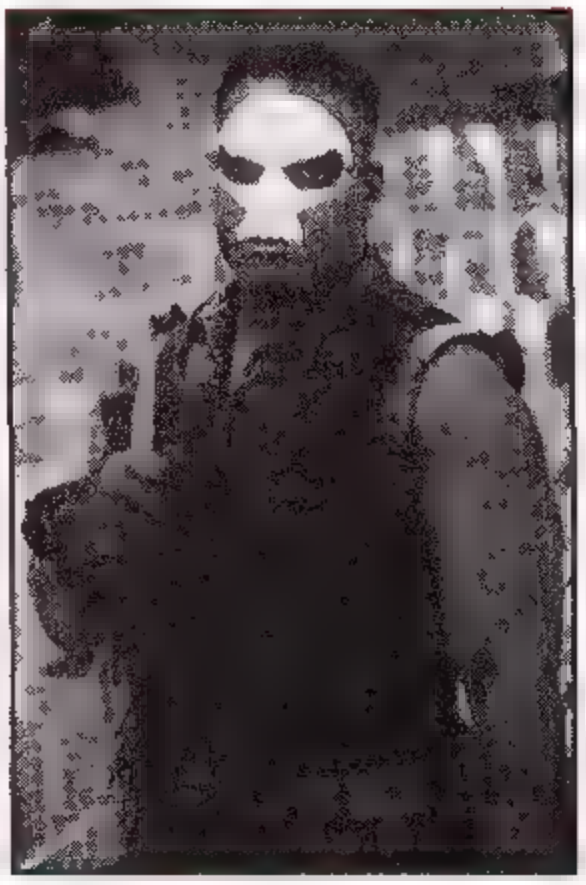
The Maxx goes head to
head with one of The
Savage Dragon's old
foes... and guess who
shows up to help out?

CYBERFORCE POSTER #1

$4.95
Color: Marc Silvestri/ Joe Chiodo

This first poster, brought to you by Marc Silvestri, the creator of CYBERFORCE, features their most popular member, RIPCLAW, in the pose that made him famous from the mega-hit #1 issue. Vibrantly colored by Joe Chiodo and **separated by those masters at Olyoptics, this is sure to make any wall come alive! Sized at 22" X 34", on high quality** gloss stock. Individually shrink-wrapped.

APPEARING IN PERSON!!!



ROB LIEFELD & EXTREME STUDIOS

To celebrate the June 25th Grand Opening of the new Mile High Comics Mega-Store, Rob Liefeld and members of Extreme Studios will be signing autographs from 5 PM to 8 PM.

Visit our stunning new 8,400 square foot store only seven blocks east of Disneyland in Anaheim, CA. It's a wonderful store for collectors of all ages with a huge selection of comics, graphic novels, T-shirts, toys, games, cards and much, much more. Visit us during the Grand Opening party, get rare autographs, free refreshments, and browse our incredible selection of collectibles.

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DEATHMATE

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- Jim Lee
- Rob Liefeld
- Joe Quesada
- Marc Silvestri
- Scott Williams
- Barry Windsor-Smith
- and many more!

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INSIDE IMAGE

AUGUST 1993
ISSUE 1/2

FROM THE PAGES OF SAVAGE DRAGON AND YOUNGBLOOD: STRIKEFILE COMES SUPERPATRIOT!

JIM LEE
WILDC.A.T.S
COVERT-ACTION-TEAMS
SPECIAL
TRAVIS CHAREST
AND
SCOTT WILLIAMS
STORY BY
STEVE GERBER
ARTWORK © 1993 AEGIS ENTERTAINMENT, INC.
COMING IN AUGUST

INSIDE ISSUE

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- **DEATHMATE EPILOGUE P.16**
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- **DEATHBLOW #4 P.18**

ASK IMAGE P.19

Cover Illustration:
Created by Erik Larsen; Pencils and Inks by Dave Johnson; Colors by Lovern Kindzierski.

Editor Tony Lobito
Production Manager
Marika Bristol
Production Coordinator
Kelly Van Landingham

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Designed and produced by Kathy Murray

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DOT YOUR I AND CROSS YOUR T'S...

Hello Image friends and fans!

What a summer, eh? Oops. .a little Canadian ese popping out of nowhere. I guess I've been talking to our printers in Montreal quite a bit lately. Seems that Image is keeping a large number of people busy on the presses. Now THAT'S good news.

August is another big month for the comic industry. Homage Studios introduces **Code Name: Stryke Force**, a spin-off from Cyberforce. This book, penciled by Brandon Peterson and colored by Joe Chiodo, promises to dry your eyes out — you just may forget to blink! And...from the creative mind of Jim Lee comes **Gen-X**, a 4-issue mini-series penciled by Jeffery Scott and inked by Alex Garner I've seen just a few pages of this series and it's a definite "E Ticket Ride". Next, check out the interview with Erik Larsen. Look out below, because his **SuperPatriot** mini-series looks to be nothing short of explosive! Dave Johnson, fresh off DC Comic's Chain Gang, is pencilling & inking SuperPatriot

This month marks the 24th annual San Diego ComicCon. Your favorite Image artists will be attending - along with thousands of fans. It's BIG! Hope you can join us for the largest comic book convention in the country.

And, just in case you've been living in a cave or trapped under something heavy, **The Maxx #3** soundtrack is coming out! Coupons for ordering the first ever stereo digital recording of a comic book are in The Maxx #3 Hope you don't miss out on this one. Keep your eyes (and ears) open for more MAXX-imum sound!

That's it for now, folks!

Tony Lobito
Publisher/Editor

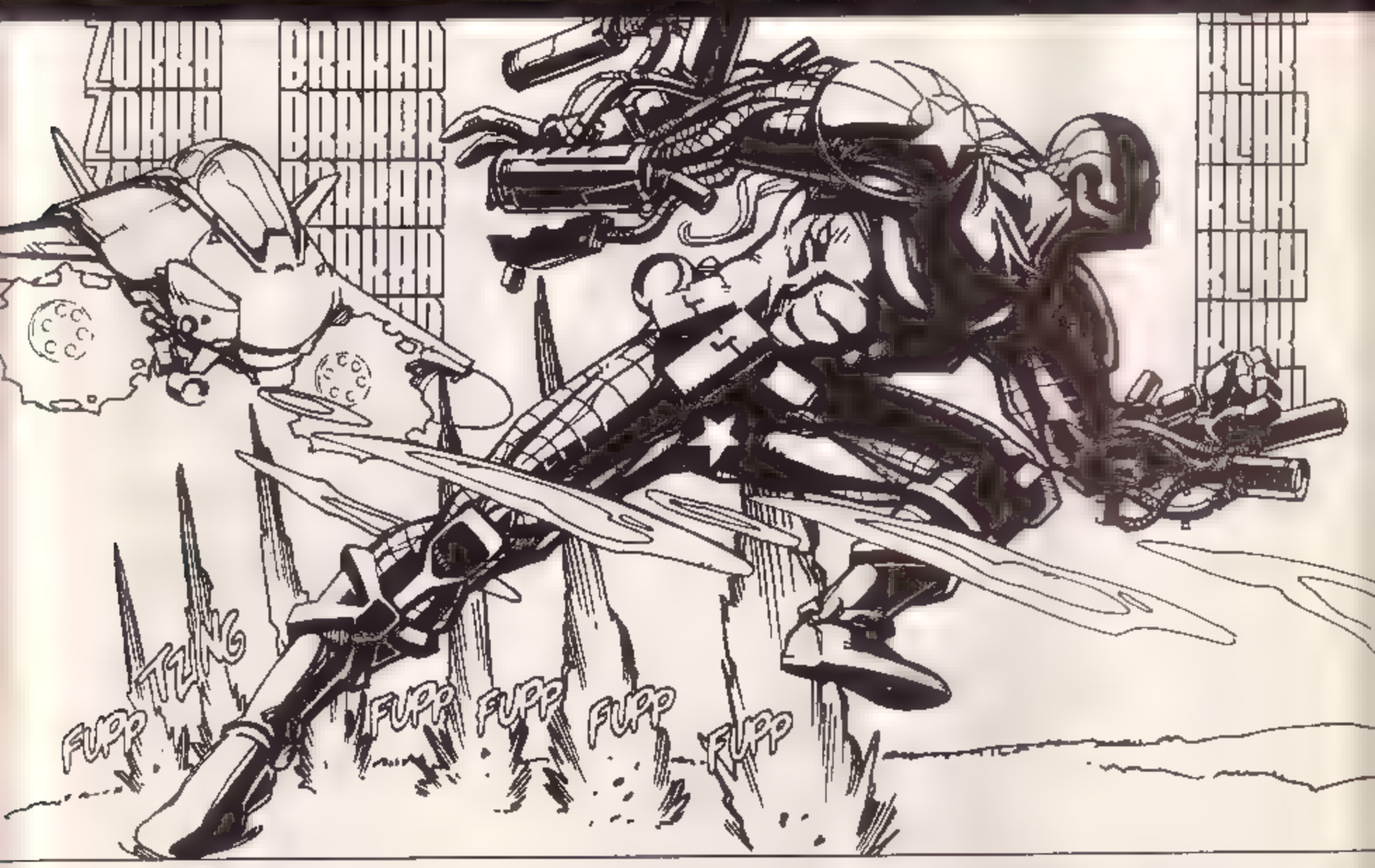
BEYOND SUPERPATRIOT™

INTERVIEW WITH ERIK LARSEN, KEITH GIFFEN AND DAVE JOHNSON

KEITH GIFFEN

KEITH, HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE SUPERPATRIOT PROJECT?

Keith: Good timing and dumb luck, I suppose. I was plugging away on the Trencher stuff, which was absorbing a lot of my time, but not quite enough. I like to have a whole bunch of different projects percolating at the same time. I guess I'm kind of compulsive that way. Now at that time I didn't figure that the Image guys would have enough open assignments to keep me as busy as I like to be. So I gave Erik a courtesy call, just to let him (and through him, the rest of the Image guys) know that I was gonna sniff around a bit, see if I couldn't land a few assignments to see me through the next coupl'a months, at least until the Bloodstrike and Shadowhawk projects kicked in. As it



turned out, Erik was sitting on enough stuff to keep a small army busy. By the time I got off of the phone, I was booked sol'd. SuperPatriot being the first to hit. I'll also be plotting the up-coming Freak Force series. If it seems like I'm doing quite a bit of work with Erik, well tough! I've wanted to get some kind of project going with him for some time now and when the opportunity presented itself, I dug in like a tick!

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE MINI-SERIES?

Keith: I provide the plot and the breakdowns. I call Erik and run through the basic story line for each issue, then Erik and I bounce around a few specifics (i.e. he takes out all of the fart jokes) and I whip out a plot.

DO YOU HAVE A "VISION" FOR SUPERPATRIOT?

Keith: Yeah, but right now it's still kind of embryonic. I'm picking up the character at an awkward time. Sort of mid-way between what he was and what he will eventually become. I mean, the half-man, half-machine riff has been done before, so the trick is to bring something new and unique into the mix. I think that the elaborate history that Erik has established for the character is what really sets SuperPatriot apart from the other Cyborg types. Right now I'm just combining elements of that past history with current traumas and seeing what evolves.

WHAT IS YOUR WORKING METHOD?

Keith: I plot the issues on 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheets, sketching it out like a mini-comic and dropping in copy in a real slap-dash manner. I prefer working this way because I tend to think almost exclusively in visual terms. Erik and I work out the major points in each story beforehand, but once I settle down and start to crank it out, Erik lets me run with it. Once the plot is done, it's shot off to Dave for him to work his magic. All in all, a very comfortable working arrangement

DAVE JOHNSON

DAVE, HOW DID YOU GET THE PENCILLER/INKER JOB ON SUPERPATRIOT?

Dave: Well, I met Erik in San Diego last year. He saw my work, and many months later he called me up about doing a SuperPatriot mini-series. A real Cinderella story.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF YOUR WORK, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE?

Dave: Euro-Manga-Kudzo-Tech.

WHO WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR MAJOR INFLUENCES?

Dave: Michael Golden, Frank Miller, Shirow Masamune, Otomo Katsuhiro, and all the guys here at Gaijin Studios.

DESCRIBE YOUR WORKING CONDITIONS.

Dave: I work 9 to 5, nine at night to five in the morning, crazy man, crazy.

HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT DRAWING A PAGE?

Dave: Well, I lay out the page on a 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. Then enlarge it on our Xerox to 10 by 15, light-box it, and ink it

WHAT TOOLS DO YOU USE IN DRAWING?

Dave: A lead gravity feed pencil holder, Uniball ballpoint, Sakura Micron Pigma markers, and for larger spot blacks I use a Staedtler Lumocolor 357 permanent marker.

HOW DID YOU BREAK INTO COMICS?

Dave: Well, Joe Phillips really helped in getting my first job with DC.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IMAGE COMICS?

Dave: I think it's a great idea because I love how it has shaken up the industry. You gotta respect that

WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION OF SUPERPATRIOT?

Dave: The six million dollar man with a Ronald Reagan budget and a lot of steroids.

I'VE SEEN SOME OF THE PAGES FROM THE FIRST ISSUE AND I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU CAME UP WITH THE DESIGNS FOR THE BAD GUYS.

Dave: Well, Keith described them as ultra techno-crusaders, so we came up with the cowl and tunic

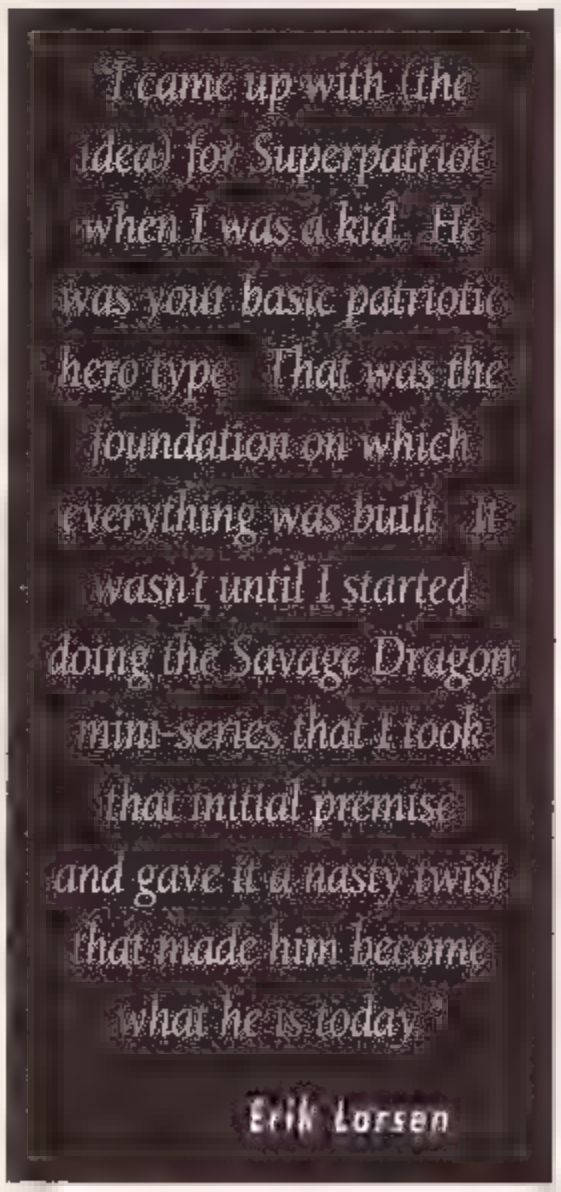
HOW IS IT WORKING WITH ERIK AND KEITH?

Dave: So far, so good. But you might want to ask me that question around the third or fourth issue and I'm all stressed out trying to juggle this and my other book

ERIK LARSEN

WHY A SUPERPATRIOT MINI-SERIES?

Erik: The mail was absolutely incredible after he appeared in the Savage Dragon mini-series so I knew that there was a demand to see more of the character. Rob Liefeld used him in Youngblood: Strikefile because he liked him so much and Rob generally has good instincts. And lastly, I wanted to use him in a group book called Freak Force and Rob left me the character in the hands of the government so there was a story that needed to be told.


I came up with (the idea) for Superpatriot when I was a kid. He was your basic patriotic hero type. That was the foundation on which everything was built. It wasn't until I started doing the Savage Dragon mini-series that I took that initial premise and gave it a nasty twist that made him become what he is today."
Erik Larsen

HOW SO?

Erik: SuperPatriot in the Dragon book was a CyberData controlled pawn and in Strikefile he was turned over to the government. In both points he's in no mental condition to be signing up with a team to go fight the forces of evil. My mission for Keith Giffen was to get him out of the government's hands and off on his own so that he could be picked up on later to join Freak Force. Keith more than rose to the occasion turning in a terrific plot that did all I wanted and more.

WHAT IS THE BASIC STORY LINE?

Erik: After Youngblood: Strikefile, SuperPatriot is in the Government's hands. But instead of working to get his humanity back, the government types try to suppress it to make him into their ultimate weapon. Government technicians isolate the flaws in SuperPatriot's programming system. It seems there's still too much of the man left in the machine

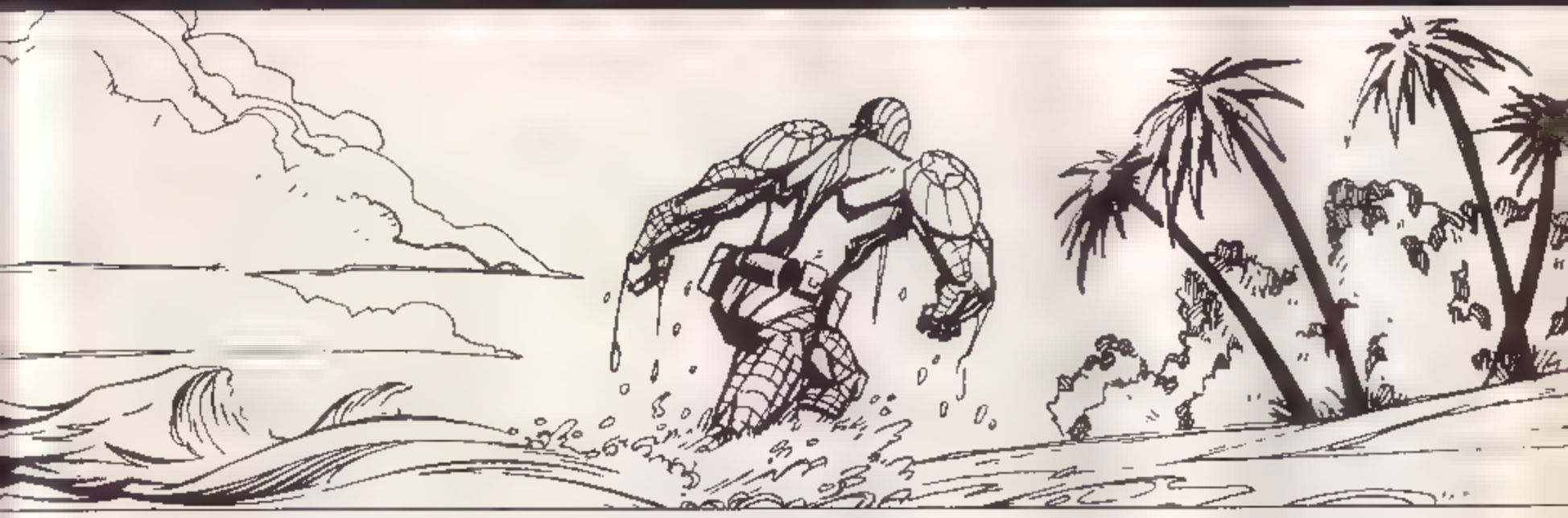
This would never do

We're introduced to the new super-villain group The Covenant of the Sword: one of Keith's conceptions. They're a major new threat to the Image universe, a malevolent organization whose actions could have far reaching consequences for the Image heroes. SuperPatriot gets reprogrammed by the government and sent after them. However, things don't necessarily go as planned.

There are a lot of neat mind games played along the way.

We'll be delving into SuperPatriot's past, seeing him in the '40s, the '60s, and the '90s when we show how the super-villain elite of Chicago, the Vicious Circle, destroyed his body.

The mini-series guest stars some members of Youngblood and features more boffo, over the top action than I thought possible in a four issue mini-series. It's jam packed with everything I dig in a comic!



HOW DO YOU WORK WITH KEITH?

Erik: We began by gabbing on the phone for a while about who the character was, how he came to be,etc. After he'd gotten a good handle on the character himself, Keith went about setting up the story to accomplish the goals I'd set out for h'm

HOW DO YOU LIKE DAVE JOHNSON'S WORK?

Erik: I think it's quite stunning He's taken a much different approach than I would and that's exactly what I wanted. I like to work with artists who draw a lot differently than I do, it helps me to rethink the way I approach my own work. Dave brings to the book an increaible high-tech look that I'd be hard pressed to pull off. He's found a way to make the character his own while keeping him recognizably SuperPatriot. I'm really pleased with the way it's turning out. Dave's pulled out all the stops to make this a real visual feast

WHERE DID YOU COME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR SUPERPATRIOT?

Erik: I came up with him when I was a kid He was your basic patriotic hero type. That was the foundation on which everything was built It wasn't until I started doing the Savage Dragon mini-series that I took that initial premise and gave it a nasty twist that made him become what he is today.

THE COSTUME IS VERY STRIKING, WHERE DID IT COME FROM?

Erik: Fab'an Nicieza and I put together a proposal to take over X-Factor when all of the characters left the book to join the X Men. Fabe had this idea of taking an existing character and making him more "Cable-like" and having him join the team. I didn't think duplicating Cable for another X-book was such a bright move so I suggested making him more of a transforming Cyborg type. I took Fabian's design for the Cable-like character, modified the skull/flag mask and completely redesigned the guy from the neck down. We dian't get the job, I was going to use the character in a Spider-Man story but the editor thought that the flag mask was "too controversial". I redesigned the guy in the Spider-Man comic and that was the end of that.

As a character, SuperPatriot is a completely different persona than the guy that Fabian and I had reworked

Fabian let me have my version of the costume design, no strings attached, and I let him raid my Nova proposal for that character's on-going series. Since I'a reworked the mask ana designed what remained, the visual was 95% mine, anyway. It all worked out rather nicely, I thought.

The "golden age" SuperPatriot costume had its stars ana stripes motif and the patriotic Cyborg-look fit like a glove in terms of upaating the character for the '90s

AFTER THE MINI-SERIES, IS THERE A CHANCE OF A REGULAR SERIES?

Erik: I'd like to see one. If there's enough support for the character, I don't see why not. I'm really pleasea with the job Keith and Dave are doing and I'd love to see it coming out on an ongoing basis. Keith and I have talkea the character through to the po'nt where we've got a lot of potential story lines and with the character's long history, there are plenty of things from his past to be brought back and delvea into. There's definitely enough material for an ongoing series, it's up to the readers whether there's enough interest.

WHAT'S IN THE FUTURE FOR SUPERPATRIOT?

Erik: A rematch between him and the Savage Dragon and after that, he joins Freak Force which begins its monthly run in December, one month after the SuperPatriot mini-series ends.

Additional Info.:
Erik Larsen is best known for the creation of the wildly popular Savage Dragon and now SuperPatriot. Keith Giffen is the creator of Trencher and DC's extremely successful Lobo. Dave Johnson is currently the penciller on DC's Chain Gang.

SUPERPATRIOT #1

$1.95
Color. (of 4)
Larsen/Giffen/Johnson

From the pages of The Savage Dragon and Youngblood comes the solo adventures of this popular character! A top-secret government agency attempts to wrest SuperPatriot's mind and reprogram him to do their bidding! Enter the world spanning menace of the Covenant of the Sword. Can the reprogrammed SuperPatriot hope to face this threat to his country! The action is brought to you by Erik Larsen and Keith Giffen writers and Dave Johnson artist! This one will be scorching hot — you have been warned!!

EXTREME #1

$2.95
Color.
Rob Liefeld

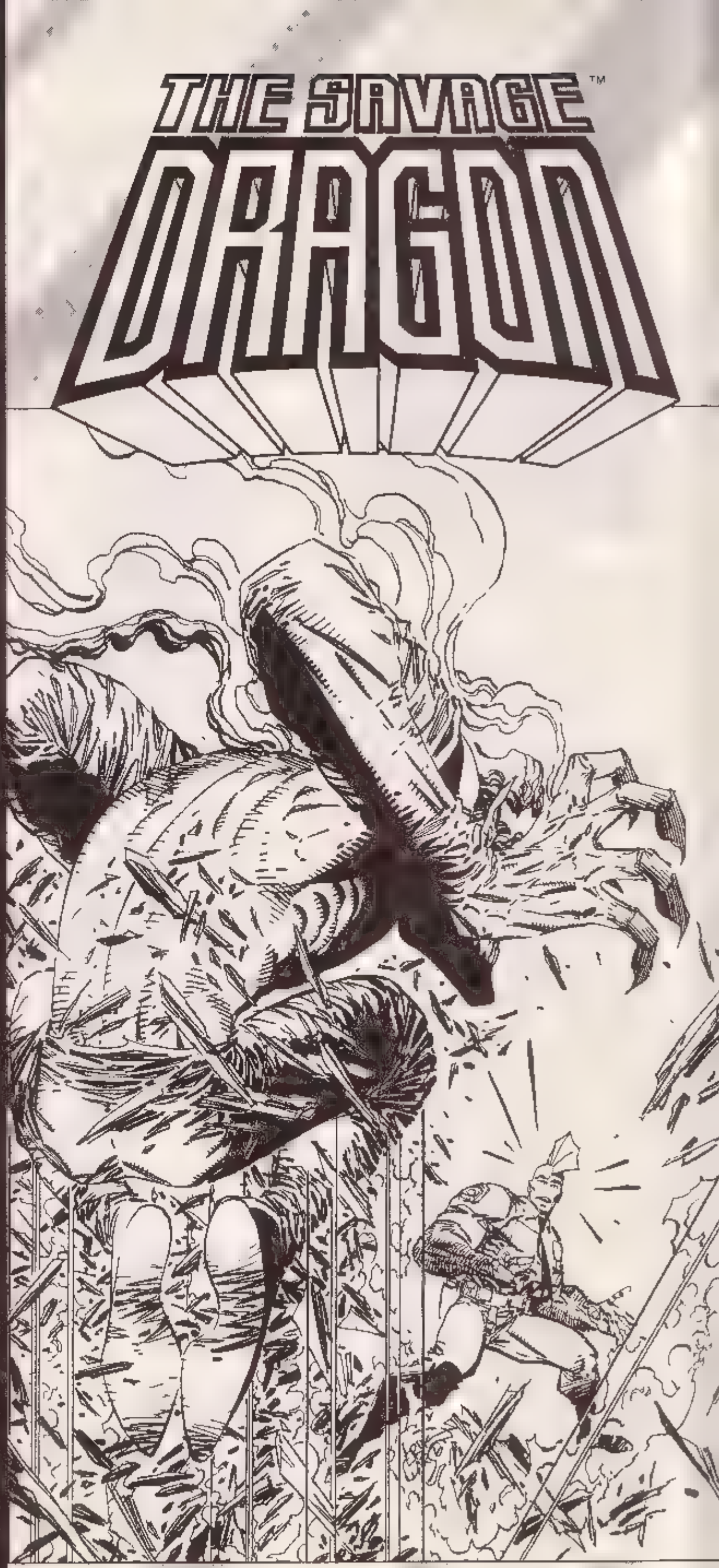
The premiere issue of an all-new quarterly anthology series from the gang at Extreme Studios: Rob Liefeld, Eric Stephenson, Dan Fraga, Marat Mychaels, Chap Yoop, Jeff Matsuda, Chuck Jones, Danny Miki, Norm Rapmund, Richard Horie, Paul Scott and Brian Murray. This series will be debuting hot new characters in their first Image appearances, including Sword & Stone, Knightfall, Code 9, Law & Order, Black Flag and more!

EXTREME™

SAVAGE DRAGON #3

$1.95
Color:
Erik Larsen

Dart and Starfyre stop a jail break. Introducing LowBlow, Body Count and Bud Ugly and re-introducing the hero — Mighty Man. The Dragon returns to Chicago to face the menace of the Fiend! Special Mighty Man back up by Erik Larsen, Victor Bridges and Terry Austin.



DANNY MIKI

HOT SHOTS

Birthdate: Jan. 21, 1963

Hobbies: Motorcycles, music, & martial arts

Favorite Music: Petra, Queensrÿche

Famous Saying: Yeah it is!

Favorite Food: Anything cooked

T.V. Show: Babylon 5

BY KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM

OKAY, DANNY, LET'S RAP. YOU'RE A NEWCOMER TO THE WORLD OF COMICS...WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Well, I was born in Garaena, California on January 21, 1963 and I started collecting comics in junior high after going on a camping trip with my parents. Before long, I was literally spending all the money I had buying comics. I mean, I was in debt when I was only 13! That's all taken care of now, though! (laughs) I really loved comics. I used to jump off roofs pretending to be a super-hero paratrooper (my dad was an Airborne paratrooper)!

WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET THE BUG TO WORK IN COMICS?

Well, I used to create my own characters all the time in junior high and everybody would te me to do my own comics, but it just seemed like too much of a fantasy to become a real comic artist. Drawing and stuff was basically just a hobby until quite a while later. In high school, though, I sort of drifted away from comics - I got into the music scene in a big way, more or less falling into "hopeful rock star" status after I graduated. I was pretty much a struggling, starving musician for a long time. It wasn't until several years later that I seriously considered doing comics, and that was only because I stumbled into a comics shop in Redondo Beach and saw this little sign advertising that Art Thibert needed an inking assistant. I'd always thought I could be pretty good at inking, so I decided to give it a shot and called him

ONCE YOU GOT STARTED WHO WERE THE MAJOR INFLUENCES ON YOUR WORK?

Lots of people. As a kid, I loved John Byrne & Terry Austin, George Perez, Paul Smith and Jim Starlin. All of those guys had cool things going for them back then. John Byrne had this highly detailed style that I just couldn't get enough of when he was doing X-Men and Iron Fist. George Perez was another detail fanatic, plus his clean style was awesome. I admired Paul Smith for his crisp, clean Nagel-esque figures and Jim Starlin for his massively buff men and women! Later on, Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld became big influences - both of them are awesome - and when I started inking, Scott Williams and Art Thibert

WHAT HAPPENED ONCE YOU WERE WORKING WITH ART?

I became his number three inking assistant, spotting blacks on the pages and rapidly learning how to ink backgrounds. Around that time, Wizard ran a contest for a piece of art to be used on their cover Even though I didn't win the contest, it started the ball rolling for me in terms of getting to where I'm at now.

HOW SO?

Well, Rob did a signing at Geoffrey's Comics (a store I worked at on the weekends) and I showed him some of my work, including the Wizard cover, and he liked it. Not much later, I was given the chance to ink for Rob on Youngblood. Youngblood #3 was my first issue.

SO, IS WORKING AT EXTREME WHAT YOU EXPECTED?

Yeah, it's been quite an experience! I'm surrounded by creative energy and I love coming into work in that kind of atmosphere.

ANY "JUICE" ON THE FUTURE?

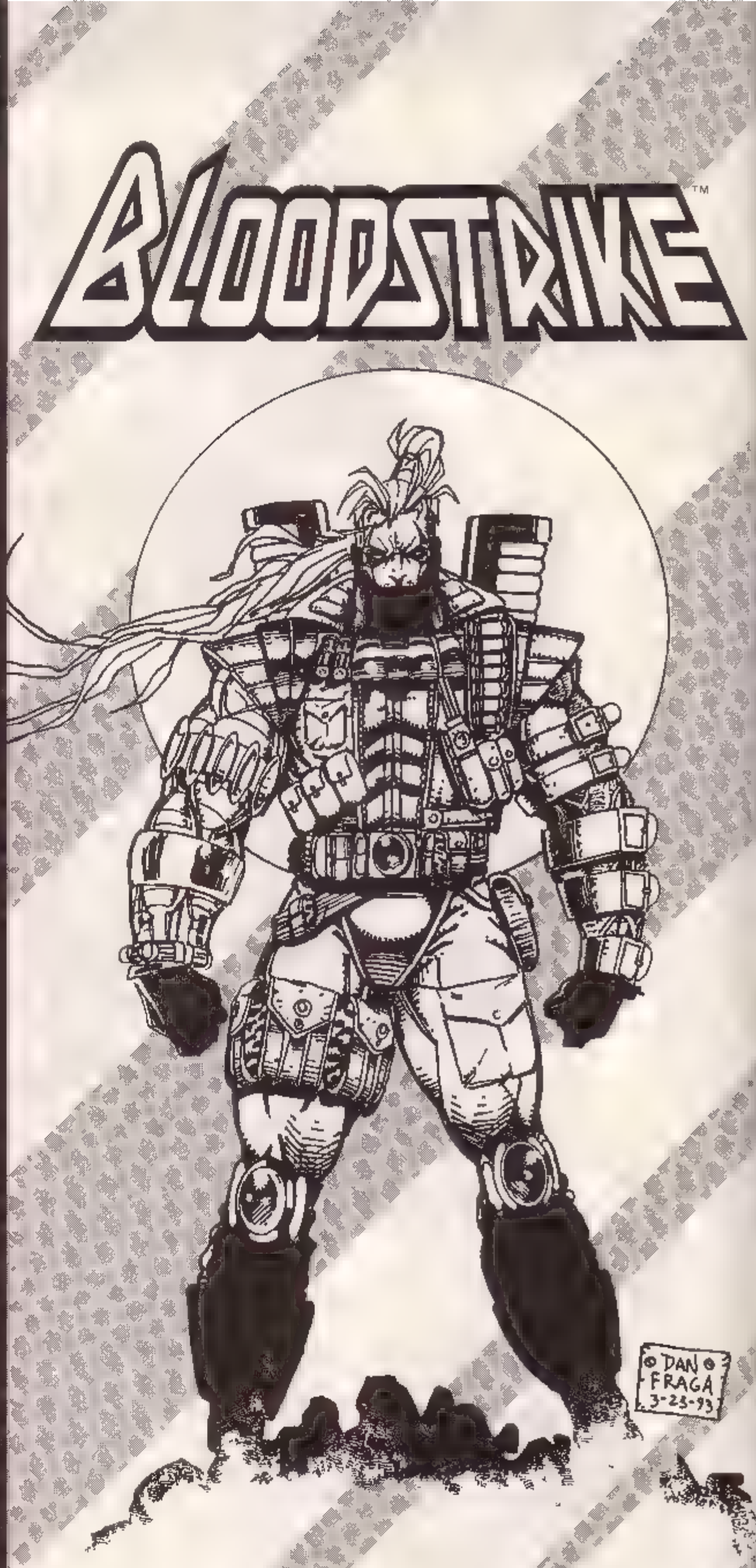
Well, I really love inking. Also, I recently created a character called Warcry who's making his debut in Brigade #0. Some of my upcoming projects include the Deathmate cross-over with Valiant, the rest of Youngblood Strikefile, Bloodstrike and possibly Doom's IV. My work is definitely cut out for me! See you on the Extreme Tour '93!

The piece that got Danny the job at Extreme.

BLOODSTRIKE #5

$1.95
Color.
Liefeld/Giffen/
Fraga/Miki

Sparks fly as Deadlock returns to base in his evil persona and goes head to head against Cabbot. Plus, Bloodstrike is assigned to investigate the return of Supreme and take down Heavy Mettle!



DOOM'S IV #3

$1.95
Color.
Liefeld/Pacella

In the wake of Grimm's sudden disappearance the remaining Doom's IV members are forced to face the legions of Doom Corp. on their own as Burke launches his fiercest attack yet.

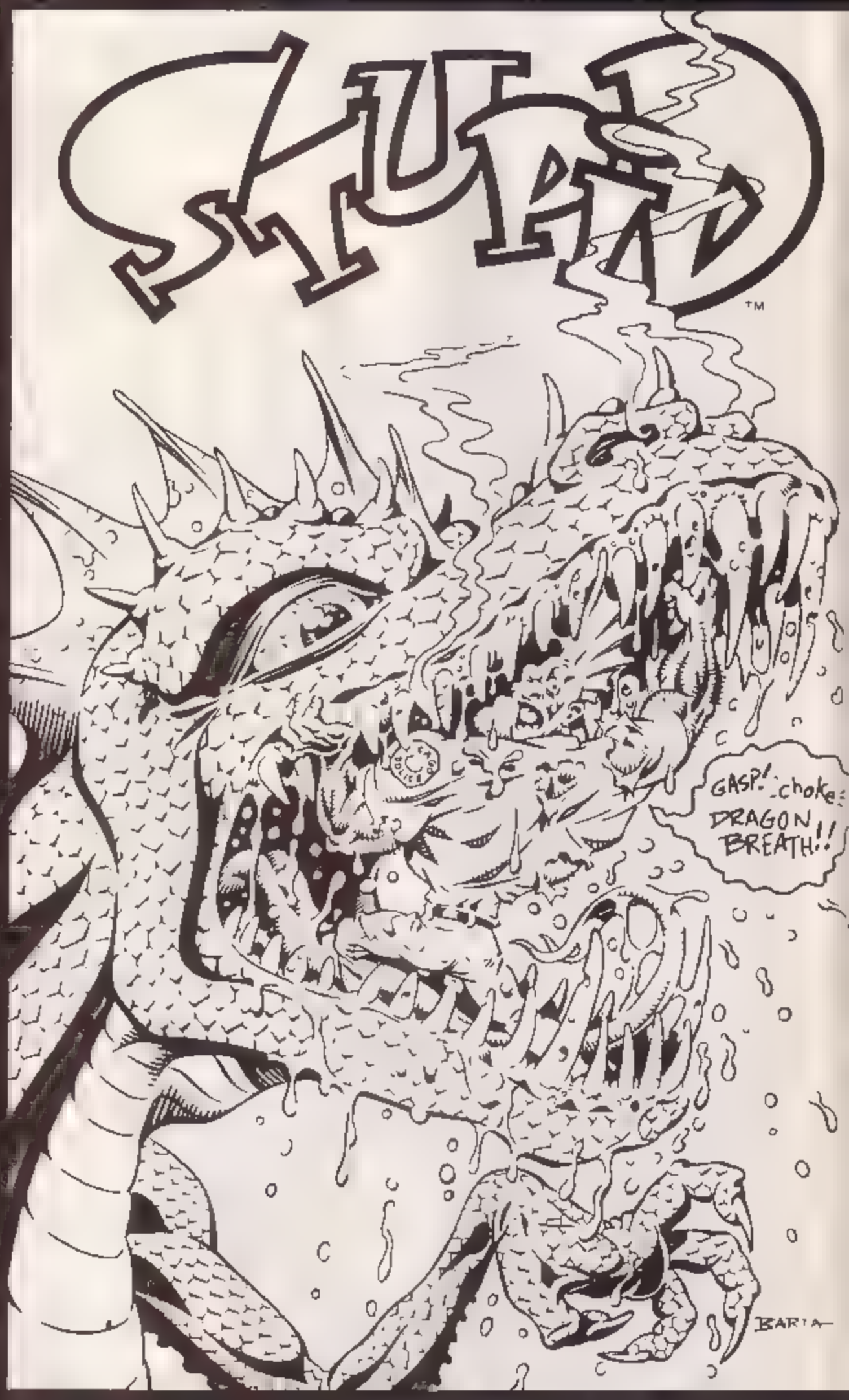
Doom's™

STUPID #2

FULL-COLOR 3-D EDITION

$2.95
Color:
Hilary Barta/Doug Rice

You won't believe your eyes as Image Comics and the 3-D Zone present the first-ever full-color 3-D comic! The Savage DraGOON and the gang from Dorkier Image: Moxx, Bloodblister and Joeblow all jump off the page and into your face! Be sure to wear the protective 3-D eye gear free in every issue!



STUPID #2

STANDARD EDITION

$1.95
Color:
Hilary Barta/Doug Rice

You won't believe your eyes as Image Comics and Surly Hack Studios present another regular comic book! The Savage DraGOON and the gang from Dorkier Image Moxie, Bloodblister and Joeblow just sit on the page like everybody else! No 3-D glasses needed, but 20/20 vision wouldn't hurt. This edition contains all the stories from the 3-D edition at two-thirds the price!

DEATHMATE EPILOGUE

IMAGE/VALIANT CROSSOVER

$2.95
Color:
Marc Silvestri/
Bob Layton/Joe
Quesada/
Scott Williams

Time is running out as the expanding universe created by VOID And DARK SOLAR's joining has reached the Twentieth Century, consuming everything in its wake. All the heroes in the Image/Valiant Universe face imminent extinction unless an unholy alliance between SOLAR, SUPREME, MASTER DARQUE, DOCTOR ECLIPSE and LORD FATE can race forward through time to prevent the future versions of DARK SOLAR and VOID from consummating their love. MASTER DARQUE, unbeknownst to the others, wants the known universe to be destroyed because the necromantic energy created by the holocaust will transform him into the Supreme Being. Don't miss the conclusion of the cataclysmic crossover event of the summer!

SHADOWHAWK II #3

$2.95
Color.
Jim Valentino/
Chance Wolf

Shadowhawk™ must face the most deadly bounty hunter in the world — Slaughter™! He has a gun — he will travel! And, who, with his accomplices, Database™ and Cover-Up™, may well uncover Shadowhawk's secret! Plus the single most incredible cover enhancement ever attempted — a three book high fold-up that animates Shadowhawk taking off his mask!! This one has to be seen to be believed!

DEATHBLOW #4

DEATHBLOW™

$1.95
Color.
Lee/Choi/Chiodo/
Heisler

Back in Iraq! In a desperate attempt to obtain the location of Kussein's secret cache of SCUD missiles, Cray and the SOG team try to take out Kussein and his henchmen in a blazing firefight. Cray, however, is thrown into turmoil when he is forced to kill a priest! The situation goes from bad to worse as the SOG team must then fight its way out of the heart of Baghdad while bombs from Allied planes begin falling on the city! Check out the back of this issue...Cybernary #1 finishes up this book with Minotaur and his men crashing their way into Doc Cosmo's secret lab...and well, read it and see!

"ASK IMAGE"

C/O Image Comics, P.O. Box 25468
Anaheim, California 92825

Dear Image,

I'm eighteen years old and currently attending a junior college. I'm very interested in getting involved in the comic book industry. I would be grateful if you could send me some information. Thank you.

Melissa Uran
El Cajon, CA

Well basically, Melissa, comic books are a form of art. Most importantly, you need to draw, draw, draw! Check out local art classes on cartooning and try to attend comic conventions. Since you're in California, you might consider attending the San Diego Comic-Con August 19-22. Write to San Diego Comic-Con, P.O. Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112 for more information.

Dear Image,

I love your comics. I'm going to a comic convention on Sunday. I have $20.00 and I'm hoping to spend it all on Image comics. I'm also going to buy a new copy of Wizard. Could you please write me back?

Your Biggest Fan,
Daniel Lackey
Houston, TX

Hey Daniel! How's this for a "write-back"? I'm glad to finally meet our biggest fan. I've been wondering who he might be.

Dear Image,

I recently started to collect comics. I went to the store and saw an Image Comic and I decided to buy it. There are several reasons why I bought it. First of all, I liked the art on the cover. Because I liked the cover, I thought the story would be great, and I was right. I have a question. I couldn't purchase several books from the store. Can I purchase these comics from you?

James Jeon
Clifton, NJ

Welcome to the wonderful world of collecting James and thanks for writing to tell us what you like. To answer your question, we don't have a mail order system set-up here at Image. We sell all our books through distributors because we believe that "local" comic book stores should be the main source for fans. Flip through a comic book price guide. They usually have information on special catalog ordering services.

Dear Image,

I am a 13 year old seventh grade boy. If it is not too much of a hassle, could you give me information about the production of a comic book and about the drawing of a character and/or scene? Thank you!

Jeremiah McVay
Lafayette, LA

Okay Jeremiah. Here are the basic steps involved in the production of a comic book. First a book is planned out on paper. A storyline/plot is mapped out, and each page is planned along with dialogue and action. Next, the pages are sketched by a penciller. After a page is pencilled, it is inked. This means that the pencil lines are darkened and the whole page becomes bolder. The lettering is placed on each page at some time during this process. The colorist takes over from there. When each page is colored, it is "color separated". A special process is used to create four pieces of film: red, blue, yellow, & black. And then, everything goes to the printer where it takes a couple weeks to produce the final product. Whew! A bit of work, huh?

NEW BOOKS

COMING IN SEPTEMBER....

IMAGES OF SHADOWHAWK
by Keith Giffen & Alan Grant

PROPHET
by Rob Liefeld

TEAM YOUNGBLOOD
by Rob Liefeld

Don't Miss 'em!!

image™